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628 *Aden*

brothers all expected to be able to guide Abdullah in what they considered to be the right direction, and in consequence Abdullah was often the recipient of contrary advice and in a dilemma, but there was one thing about which he had no doubt and that was his dislike of the interminable blood feuds. He sought our help to put an end to them and at the same time to set up an administration. His request was granted and a motorable track was driven through the mountains to Yeshbum and Said, the two towns of the Sheikhdom, opening up the country to the outside world. Truces were made between the tribal septs which were guaranteed by Abdullah as Regent for his father and by Government, and in a short while peace came to a land which for so long had known nothing but strife.

636 The negotiating of the truces was, in this case, not particularly difficult because everyone was tired of fighting and only too anxious to come to an agreement, provided they could do so with honour. The authority of the Sheikh, backed by the power of the Government, was an overwhelming reason for suspending the feuds, and what was essential, a reason that could be seen by their neighbours and would be generally acknowledged as adequate. It is not only in Surbiton that the opinion of the neighbours is of importance.

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Such truces are normally made for a few months in the first instance and then renewed for longer and longer periods until no-one troubles to remember when they lapse. When this stage is reached it does not matter whether they are in force or not because the reason for the truce has been forgotten and peace and good relations have become the accustomed way of life. Sometimes feuds are ended definitely during a truce by the casting up of the accounts of the dead and wounded on either side during the period of the feud and the striking of a balance; the difference being assessed at so much a head in accordance with local custom and a payment of "blood money", as it is called, being made from the debtors' side to the creditors' side.

636 Strenuous efforts were made to produce an administration and eventually one began to take shape, but it was painfully slow and the whole project very nearly had to be abandoned. The real trouble here was lack of money. It generally is. Money

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2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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topical calypsos or, to use their own word, *zamils*, rhyming lines with a topical theme, part repeated by the chorus of tribesmen. It was the first time I had seen one of these tribal demonstrations, and I was thrilled as the blue kilted tribesmen, led by their Amir, moved in what seemed to be a tail-less snake of men, three abreast, round and round, coiling and uncoiling while rifles were being fired in the air with a delightful disregard for the eventual destination of their contents among the surrounding hills.

The procession over, I walked up the Wadi with the Amir on one side and his eldest brother on the other, and as we passed a very modern-looking gun it commenced to fire my salute. It was some ten feet above us on the bank, and I inquired from where they had obtained the blank ammunition for the gun, for this was no black powder affair, and was not altogether surprised to learn that live ammunition was being used. I should like to have hastened my footsteps and got well clear before the next round, but that would have been very poorly thought of, so we continued our stately walk without haste or damage to anything, except our ear-drums.

The new administration made a good start, but that salute of guns had been heard in the Yemen, although nearly two years were to pass before the re-opening of an old family dispute split the ruling family and gave the Imam his opportunity. The Yemen took sides with money and gifts of rifles and ammunition, and once again shots whistled along the narrow streets of Said, and as the infection spread and the tribesmen became restive, Abdullah, the Amir, faced serious trouble. By the grace of God and the opportune visit to the Protectorate of the then Minister of State, Mr. Hopkinson, now Lord Colyton, the additional financial help we needed so badly was made available to the young and struggling administration. Much can be done with money in Arabia, even to the extent of starting and stopping wars, as Lawrence demonstrated in the Hedjaz.

A young Assistant Adviser came to the Aulakis at the same time (the designation "Political Officer" had been abolished, and "Assistant Adviser" introduced as being more truly